

HIGHLAND MAIN STREET MEETING
Highland Town Hall- Highland, Indiana 46322
November 1, 2018 MINUTES

Call to Order

At 6:31 PM, the Highland Main Street (HMS) meeting was called to order by President Dawn Diamantopoulos at Highland Town Hall, 3333 Ridge Road in Highland, Indiana.

Roll Call:

The following were present: Board Members Dawn Diamantopoulos, Lola McKay, Mary Wells, Doug Van Ramshorst, Marie Russo and Redevelopment Assistant Lance Ryskamp. Board Members Julie Larson, Mario DeGeorge and Darlene Barron were absent. Also present was Nan Mason, Joris Nefs, Teri Yovkovich, Mary Ellis, Jacqui Herrera, Renee and Ben Reinhart.

Minutes:

Marie Russo made a motion, seconded by Doug Van Ramshorst, to approve minutes and meeting memos from the August 2, 2018, September 6, 2018 and October 4, 2018 meetings. The motion passed on a voice vote 5-0.

Festival of the Trail

Lance provided the Board with the final income and expense report on the Festival, as well as suggestions from Director DeGuilio-Fox for future festivals. A discussion took place and some of the suggestions made included: moving the food trucks further away from the vendor booths due to generator noise; spreading out the vendor booths and moving them further west on Jewett toward Kennedy Avenue; using speakers to help increase the volume of the music in the Mural Alcove; increasing the event publicity; expanding the number and type of vendors; and exploring online applications and credit card payments. The Board expressed their desire to maintain the art theme to the festival and everyone was pleased that the festival, downtown sidewalk sales and the Fire Department Open House had brought increased foot traffic in the area.

Highland Rookery

No report.

Pop-Up Gallery

No report.

Coupon Program

No report.

Car Cruise

No report.

Community Garden

Lance reviewed possible community garden sites. He said the timing and nature of future development at the SW corner of Highway and Kennedy was still some time away from a decision point, making that location difficult for immediate action on the project. He provided information on some vacant park space at Meadow's Park that the Park Department had indicated would be workable. A discussion ensued on these sites, as well as the vacant lot at 2917 Highway, adjacent to the Fire Station. The unanimous consensus was that the 2917 Highway site would be best to pursue. Lance said he would investigate water access on the property. Renee discussed possible grants that were available, including some with a December 31st application deadline. She said that she would a

draft layout based on the dimensions of the site, along with projected construction costs. Lance said that because there are no town funds budgeted for this project, full funding to construct and maintain the garden, as well as costs associated with providing water to the site, would all have to come from outside grants, donations and sponsorships. He said he reached out to the Highland Community Foundation and to the Highland School Superintendent and both were generally supportive of the project.

Lance said that use of property would require approval from the Highland Redevelopment Commission. He suggested that Main Street target the Commission's December 17th meeting to seek approval. He said that cost estimates for construction and water-related expenses be investigated and identified prior to the Commission meeting, along with outside funding sources.

Façade Improvement Grant

Lance reported that facade and interior improvement grants were being applied for by the new owners of the former Anthony's building on Highway Avenue.

Cash Mobs

No report.

Municipal Parking Lot

No report.

Poet Laureate

Lance reported that Alaina Polen was to participate in the upcoming Veteran's Day ceremony on November 11th.

Sculpture and Art Tour of Highland

Lance reported that Judith Mayer has almost completed the new downtown mural. Dawn reported that the Call For Sculpture Art, to be funded by a donation from Dyer Arts Visionaries, would be reviewed and revised so that it can sent out by the end of the year.

Small Business Saturday/ Christmas Tree Lighting & Caroling- November 24th

The Board discussed the activities taking place on Small Business Saturday, including business promotions and the Highland High Orchestra performance at the library. Lance said that arrangements for the caroling still needed to be worked out, between Main Street, the Council of Community Events, and other participants. Lance said he would help to the extent he could prior to leaving on vacation after November 16th. Lance said that based on discussions with the Park Superintendent, as well as the fact that many trees in Main Square were donated on behalf the donors' family members, decorations on those trees was not feasible.

2019 Planning- Review of Last Call For Summer & FOTT/ 2019 Event & Project Planning

Lance provided the Board with a first draft of a 2019 Action Plan. It was decided that due to the length of the meeting, the Board would defer discussion on this item until their December meeting.

Discussion

Lance informed the Board that their terms were ending in January and he distributed re-appointment applications to those present. He also reminded everyone in attendance that he would need to get input on volunteer hours for 2018 from them for the Indiana Main Street's annual report.

Adjournment

With no further business, Doug made a motion, seconded by Mary, to adjourn. It passed on a voice vote 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.